

Section 506 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010

Rural Veterans Coordination Pilot (RVCP) FAQ for External Use

What is RVCP?

RVCP is a new one-time, competitive grant program to assist veterans and their families as they transition from military service to civilian life in rural and underserved areas. Grants will be awarded to state and local governments and community based organizations.

Are these grants renewable?

No, at this time this is a pilot program and grants will not be extended or renewed.

What family members are included?

Veterans' family means those individuals who reside with the veteran in the veteran's primary residence. These individuals include a parent, a spouse, a child, a step-family member, an extended family member, and individuals who reside in the home with the veteran but are not a member of the family of the veteran.

How is RVCP different than already established grant programs?

RVCP is unique in that it specifically serves the Veteran and immediate family during the transition period from military service to civilian life in a rural or underserved community.

How much grant money is available under RVCP?

Up to two million dollars per grant will be awarded to each of the five entities for a total of up to 10 million dollars.

Who will benefit from the grant programs?

The grants will directly benefit Veterans and their families by helping them make the transition from military life to civilian life in rural and underserved communities.

When will grants applications start being accepted?

June 19, through September 19, 2013

When will Veterans be able to receive benefits from RVCP grants?

We expect the grants to be awarded in January 2014. Each awardees' timeline for the supporting veterans and their families will vary.

How will VA determine if an organization is eligible to participate in the pilot?

The Veterans Health Administration will determine eligibility to participate based on the criteria in the statute. State and local government agencies and community based organizations of all sizes and of diverse missions will be eligible to apply for grants. Simply stated, organizations

that provide some type of service to Veterans in areas defined in statute are potentially eligible to receive grant money and use it to assist Veterans and their families. A detailed scoring system will be used to determine grant award eligibility.

How will the grant areas be selected?

Congress made the distinction in the statute: rural areas, areas with high proportions of minorities in their populations, areas where access to health care is limited, and areas *not* close to a major active military installation. Grant awardees will have to service an area that meets the language in the statute.

Give an example of how RVCP will work

A County Service Office in rural Montana may be aware of different organizations that provide or can provide various care and benefits to Veterans and their families but lacks the staff and resources to unify the fragmented efforts of these well-meaning groups. Using RVCP funds, the Service Office may hire more people, build and operate an internet site, establish a local hotline telephone number, place ads in local media, use social media for outreach, etc.

Who will benefit from the grant programs?

The grants will directly benefit Veterans and their families. Indirectly, health care and benefits providers and Veteran employers will benefit as well.

How and when will you inform Veterans about RVCP?

RVCP will publish on its website the identity of organizations submitting successful applications. In addition, a multitude of communication mechanisms will be used to announce the commencement of these programs. Veterans and their families are encouraged to contact those entities to determine what benefits may be available.

Who is running the grant program?

The grant program is being run by a full-time staff in VHA's Interagency Health Affairs Office in Washington DC.

Below are the four websites for VA Rural Health for RVCP website, Federal Register – Final Rule, Federal Register NOFA, and Grants.gov

Forms must be accessed through Grants.gov and application submissions must be entered into Grants.gov.

1. <http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/coordination-pilot/index.asp>
2. <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/02/25/2013-04277/grants-for-the-rural-veterans-coordination-pilot-rvcp>
3. <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/06/04/2013-13163/notice-of-funds-availability-inviting-applications-for-the-rural-veterans-coordination-pilot>

4. <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=K6L2R5nM807TTTVptzyJFNSCziyrCqT6JrjbxzpKTLPgzYbTL02B!-1329833229?oppld=236274&mode=VIEW>

Please make sure you have the latest edition of Adobe on your computer:

<http://softclipse.com/adobe-reader>

Here is a link to Health and Human Services (HHS) that has statistics on underserved areas:

<http://muafind.hrsa.gov/>

How can I get more information?

<http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/coordination-pilot/index.asp> If the internet site is not working or additional information is needed; please call VHA's Office of Interagency Health Affairs at (202) 461-4781 or email Jackie.Bean@va.gov